



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0201- Room 3071-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-0201

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NOTICE TO THE TRADE GROUND BEEF SUPPLIERS

This Notice is issued by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service to announce the minimum requirements for laboratories designated by contractors to conduct microbiological testing on boneless beef. The Technical Requirements Schedule (TRS) – GB 2003, Modified May 2003, requires potential contractors to designate, in their technical proposal, a laboratory to conduct microbiological testing of boneless beef.

Contractor designated laboratories must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA);
- (2) Be able to analyze samples using the test methods listed in the TRS; and
- (3) Be a third party, independent laboratory that is not affiliated with or owned by a food processing company.

The TRS is available on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/cp/beef/TRS%20GB2003.pdf>

If further information is needed, please contact the Contracting Officer on (202) 720-2650.

/s/ William T. Sessions (6/12/2003)
William T. Sessions
Acting Deputy Administrator
Livestock and Seed Program